

NEWS RELEASE

Sierra National Forest



For Immediate Release

Date: August 7, 2014 Time: 8:00 AM

French Fire

Location: The fire is burning in the area between Rock Creek and Fish Creek campgrounds, in the San Joaquin River drainage, Bass Lake Ranger District, in the Sierra National Forest.

Acres Burned: 13,835
Containment: 85%
Fire Started: July 28, 2014
Cause: Human

Structures Threatened: 0
Structures Destroyed: 0
Injuries: 5

Total personnel assigned to the Fire: 1336

Summary

Today crews will continue fire line suppression repair and mop-up on all parts of the fire. The interior parts of the fire continue to cool, but some areas may still produce smoke for several more days. The east perimeter has burned down to the San Joaquin River.

Firefighting resources, such as engines and crews, will continue to be demobilized from the French Fire and sent to other fires in northern California. The public is reminded a lot of firefighting equipment will still be traveling on the roads going into the French Fire area and others will be leaving the community heading to other incidents.

The Gags Campground, which is west of the fire area, is not within the forest closure area and remains open for public use. The Whisky Falls Campground is within the forest closure and will be closed for public use until the forest closure is lifted. The French Fire did not impact the Whisky Falls Campground.

An investigation has concluded that an abandoned campfire near the Rock Creek Campground was the cause of the French Fire. The abandoned campfire was located towards the bottom of Rock Creek Road, near the San Joaquin River. Investigators are asking for the public's help for information about anyone who was seen in the area of Rock Creek Road near the San Joaquin River during the afternoon or evening of Sunday July 27. Anyone with information is encouraged to call the 559-877-2605.

Closures

A Forest Service Area Road and Trail Closure, Forest Order # 15-14-07, has been issued for the French Fire area. More information about the Forest Closure and the closure can be found at: <http://tinyurl.com/o44cvyu>.

Forest Road 4S81 (Minarets Rd) between Arch Rock and Redinger Overlook and Forest Road 6S01 (Grizzly Rd) between Beasore Rd and Minarets Rd remain closed to for all public use, including local residents.



South Central Sierra Interagency Incident Management Team

Fire Information: (559) 877-2605

Follow this incident on Twitter @Sierra_NF

For additional information visit: <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/4013/>